

(ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಬದರಿನಾರಾಯಣ್)

ಮಾಡುವ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ ಸರಕಾರದ್ದು. ಇದರಿಂದ ನೂರಕ್ಕೆ ಐವತ್ತರಷ್ಟು ಕೆಟ್ಟ ಹೆಸರು ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವುದು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸತಕ್ಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಿಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಕಡೆ ಸೋರಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸಹಾಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ನಾವು ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಕಡೆ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಕೋತಿ ತಿಂದು ಮೇಕೆ ಬಾಯಿಗೆ ಒರಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಯಾರೋ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ನಿಕ್ಕಿ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡಬಾರದು. ಆಯವ್ಯಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಸರಕಾರವು ಅರ್ಥ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಅನೇಕ ಸಲಹೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಲಹೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ಗಮನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. Men of proven ability and integrity should be placed in important places. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವು ಸಲಹೆಗಳನ್ನಾದರೂ ಕಾರ್ಯರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ ತರುತ್ತಾರೆಂದು ಆಶಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಡ್ಡುಕೆರು ಇಷ್ಟು ಮಾತನಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಟ್ಟುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸಿ ನನ್ನ ಎರಡು ಮೊತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

STATEMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

re: talks held in Delhi about Cauvery Waters' dispute

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS:--Sir, after attending the meeting that was called by the Union Minister for Irrigation and Agriculture of all the Chief Ministers of the three States, namely, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala. I took some time to come before the House to make a statement on the Cauvery dispute. The House was rightly anxious to know what had happened and what Government proposes to do in this behalf because all these days after that meeting ended in a non-agreement I should say many statements have come out in the press and mostly from Tamilnadu Chief Minister giving different versions of the failure of the talk. They have gone to the extent of even first placing the responsibility on Karnataka State and then on the Centre also.

Now Sir I have sought the permission of this House to place this statement of mine on behalf of the Govern-

ment as to what the facts are and how things have proceeded and so far as regards the dispute.

This House has on a number of occasions expressed its great concern about the proper utilisation of the Cauvery waters and safeguarding our rights.

A number of meetings have taken place, and the last one was held between the three Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu with the Union Minister for Agriculture on 15th and 16th February 1975. In view of the great importance of the subject, I would like to make a statement of facts before this House.

My colleague, Shri H. M. Channabasappa, Minister for Public Works has briefly referred to some aspects of these discussions in this House on 19-2-1975. In continuation of that statement, I would like to place before this House the following facts.

There was an agreement in regard to utilisation of Cauvery waters between the old states of Mysore and Madras in 1892. Consequent on this, the 1924 agreement came into being. Some aspects of the Rules of Regulation which formed part of the agreement were subsequently changed in 1929. The 1924 agreement has many objectionable features, which have caused serious injuries to our interests.

The Cauvery river flows together with its tributaries through the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The contribution of each State to the river basin is estimated to be as follows :—

Kerala	135 TMC	18.1 %
Karnataka	388 TMC	52.5 %
Tamil Nadu	217 TMC	29.3 %
		<hr/> 740 TMC	<hr/> 100.0	

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The area of irrigation developed in the State of Karnataka so far is 2.72 lakh Hectares (6.8 lakh acres) and in the State of Tamil Nadu it is 11.28 lakh Hectares (28.2 lakh acres).

It will be seen from the above that although the contribution of our State to the Cauvery Basin is very large, our utilisation has been extremely small. This is due to a variety of reasons, to which I do not propose to refer at this moment.

Though the State Government commenced the irrigation works across Hemavathi, Kabini and Harangi rivers some years back, the projects were not cleared by the Government of India as Tamil Nadu went on opposing such clearance. In a search for a solution the Government of India discussed with the Chief Ministers of all concerned States on a number of occasions. At a meeting held on 31-5-1972, it was agreed that serious attempts should be made to resolve the Cauvery dispute by negotiations between the States as early as possible. To this end it was agreed that the Centre may appoint a Fact Finding Committee consisting of Engineers, retired Judges and if necessary, agricultural experts to collect all the connected data pertaining to Cauvers waters, its utilisation, irrigation development and practices together with projects both existing, under construction and proposed, in the Cauvery basin. The Committee was also to examine the adequacy of the present supplies or excessive use of water for irrigation purposes.

Accordingly, the Fact Finding Committee consisting of the following was appointed by the Government of India :—

1. Shri P. R. Ahuja
2. Shri Jatindra Singh
3. Dr. J. S. Patel
4. Justice B. D. Bal

This Fact Finding Committee gave its report in December 1972. A meeting of Chief Ministers of the three States was convened by the Government of India on 29-4-1973. They decided that the Fact Finding Committee should collect some further data regarding the irrigated area, crop area, etc. The Committee submitted its further report on 14-8-1973. This was discussed by the Chief Ministers at a meeting held on 9th and 10th October 1973. At that meeting, it was agreed that Shri C. C. Patel, Additional Secretary, Government of India should carry out studies on the economy of water use in the existing and planned projects in the Cauvery Basin. Shri Patel gave his report to the Government of India. Copies of the report have not been made available to us.

Another meeting of the Chief Ministers was held in Madras on 27-6-1974 presided over by Shri K. C. Pant, Minister for Irrigation, Government of India, at that time. It was indicated at that meeting that Shri Patel had suggested the following measures for economising the use of water.

- (i) Improvements and modernisation of the irrigation system (lining of canals, command area, development works) ;
- (ii) Better water management and control ;
- (iii) Diversification of cropping patterns ;
- (iv) Replacement of surface water by ground water ;
- (v) Integrated operation of reservoirs ;
- (vi) Scientific water requirement of crops.

Shri Patel had further discussions with the technical officers, and the next meeting of the Chief Ministers was held on 29th and 30th November 1974 under the

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Chairmanship of Shri Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister for Irrigation and Agriculture. After discussions, it was assessed and agreed that the following is the existing utilisation of water in the three basin States :—

Tamil Nadu	....	489 TMC
Karnataka	....	177 TMC
Kerala	....	5 TMC
Total		<u>671 TMC</u>

It was also indicated that the following savings could be effected :—

Tamil Nadu	....	100 TMC
Karnataka	....	25 TMC
Total	....	<u>125 TMC</u>

It was further indicated that the future reasonable requirements of the States would be as under :—

Tamil Nadu	...	4 TMC
Karnataka	....	138 TMC
Kerala	....	53 TMC
Total	...	<u>195 TMC</u>

Based on the above, it was indicated that the savings of 125 TMC will be distributed as under :—

Tamil Nadu	....	4 TMC
Karnataka	....	87 TMC
Kerala	....	34 TMC
		— — —
Total	....	125 TMC
		— — —

A draft agreement was also prepared by the officers of the Government of India, but it could not be finalised as it was already late that day.

One of the principal features of the draft agreement was the setting up of a Cauvery Valley Authority. The details about the functions and duties of the Cauvery Valley Authority were yet to be settled. The exact mode of utilisation of waters was also to be determined.

I handed over a copy of the draft agreement to Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Leader of the Opposition for study. I had also made clear in a number of public utterances that all that had been accepted was the constitution of the C. V. A. in principle, and that all the other details had yet to be worked out. I invited the leaders of the opposition and also some of the members of our own party who were interested in the subject for a discussion on 12-2-1975. I fully apprise them about the position.

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Shri Jagjivan Ram, convened another meeting of Chief Ministers on 15th and 16th February 1975.

During the discussions, I made it quite clear that Karnataka should have the right to utilise the tentatively allotted waters as and when it is able to do so. The

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case of Tamil Nadu was that they would effect the savings only over a period of 15 years and that our utilisation should be matched with the savings they are able to achieve. This was a position with which obviously, I could not agree. At the end of the first day's meeting, the different States were requested to indicate their stands on the specific issues. I indicated our views.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, in their written statement went back completely on the earlier understanding regarding utilisation. They stated that the utilisation of 489 T. M. C. based on the average of last 5 years could not be accepted. They claimed that the utilisation should be taken at 566 T. M. C. based on an average withdrawal over 38 years.

They were prepared to agree to reduce the intake at Mettur by 100 TMC, provided the intake figure is fixed at 80 TMC, ft. This would mean that they were prepared to draw 280 TMC. ft. at Mettur. They further insisted upon a minimum flow of 260 TMC. in any year at Mettur.

This suggestion of Tamil Nadu means by implication :

- (a) that Tamil Nadu desires to enjoy maximum benefits of water utilisation even during deficit years to the detriment of the interests of other basin States.
- (b) that Tamil Nadu refuses to concede the rights of Karnataka State to utilise the legitimate share of its waters of cauvery, conceded even under the 1924 agreement by which they swear.

- (c) that Tamil Nadu wants to shut out the Upper riparian States once and for all from claiming their just share in the surplus waters of cauvery basin including the under ground waters.

The Government of Tamil Nadu again reversed their stand and stated that instead of indicating any figure about present utilisation, the phrase "existing use in normal years" might be adopted in the agreement. This was strange logic. If the existing use is not clearly defined, it would give room for a lot of complications, particularly in determining the surplus water as water as well as the quantity to be saved. We can only save from a specified quantity. Further, there can be a surplus only above the specified quantity. As the phrase, "existing use in normal years" was not only vague, but also gave room for lot of misunderstandings in future, both Karnataka and Kerala found themselves unable to agree with Tamil Nadu.

It is thus seen that Tamil Nadu Government completely went back on the understanding reached in November 1974. I do not know the reasons which prompted them to do so.

Here I might say that of late, after this meeting was over the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has gone to the Press a number of times and stated the reasons for the failure of talks. They are mostly untenable as I have seen through the Press. I do not know whether it is more political than technical, because one accusation is made against us that Karnataka is coming in the way of using waters and it is on account of that that the crops in Tamil Nadu are withering and the Tamil Nadu people are suffering. It is not because of Karnataka's supposed to be intransigent attitude as is understood by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister or Tamil Nadu Government, but it is because the Tamil

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Nadu Government refuses to concede that more waters are going into the sea as waste without being utilised.

Over a period of 100 years, they have not been able to economise in the proper utilisation of water. They have failed all these years to see that the waters are properly channelled and properly taken care of and regulated the water in a scientific manner. The Tamil Nadu has not only utilised its share but also our share and they have also allowed all these years certain quantity of water to go waste into the sea. Now they want to camouflage the whole issue by saying that the Karnataka Government is withholding waters and it is they who are responsible. I may at this stage say that we are as anxious as Tamilnadu is in safeguarding the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers as they too are Indian farmers and we are certainly not in any way interested to harm their cause. But it is not the Karnataka Government or the people who are harming the cause of Tamil Nadu farmers, it is the Government that is doing it and not we. It is the Government of Tamil Nadu that is doing it. They have been refusing to see the rational behind the realities of the situation.

One of the important features of the draft agreements, prepared by the Government of India was that the projects proposed by us would be cleared without waiting for the agreement from other basin States. We made it clear that Karnataka should be free to go ahead with our projects.

As I have pointed out earlier, the contribution of Karnataka to Cauvery is as high as 388 TMC but our utilisation is till now only 177 TMC. With a view to utilise our rightful share of Cauvery waters, Karnataka Government has stepped its expenditure on Cauvery waters. The expenditure till March 1971 was Rs. 1834

lakhs. The expenditure since then till March 75 is Rs. 4378 lakhs.

Here again, the House will appreciate, we are anxious to see that these projects are completed as quickly as possible. In spite of so many difficulties that came in the way of allotting more funds in all these years, we have tried our level best to provide the maximum amount that we could under the circumstances to complete the projects under the Cauvery Valley.

I may take this opportunity to assure the House that Government will see that the legitimate rights of the State in the waters of Cauvery will be fully safeguarded. We will not countenance anything which may adversely affect out State's interest. However we are prepared to extend our full co-operation to arrive at an agreed solution. It shall not however be at the expense of our legitimate interest. Our attitude in all the negotiations has been one of accomodation and co-operation. We have been helping Tamil Nadu whenever they were in difficulties to the extent possible.

Water is a scarce resource. Waters of an inter-State river have to be shared by all basin States on a fair and equitable basis. It is therefore necessary that each State should respect the legitimate needs of the others.

Tamil Nadu which has already appropriated waters disproportionate to their fair share should realise the need for 'a live and let live' approach.

It is seen from the press reports that the Government of India is contemplating another round of discussions with the Chief Ministers. I will be too happy to participate in any of these discussions and extend the best co-operation possible to arrive at a just and equitable share of waters for all the basin States in the Cauvery basin.